

PRESS-HERALD TELEGRAM

U. Of M. Foreign Language Majors Follow 3 Patterns

ORONO — Foreign language majors who graduate from the University of Maine follow three major patterns, according to Dr. Wilmarth H. Starr, head of the department.

They are likely to teach at the secondary school or college level, enter government service, or take positions with industry and commerce concerned with international transportation and communications.

"We have a good program in the newer methods of language teaching," Dr. Starr said, "and maintain close contact with school systems and colleges which are anxious to get our better students."

"For those who wish to enter college teaching we have channels into graduate schools which practically assure our good students graduate assistantships or fellowship aid."

"GOVERNMENT service, the second major area our graduates enter, includes particularly work in federal intelligence agencies such as the National Security Agency and C.I.A. Some 15 of our students have found happy, successful careers in this area since the war."

"In commerce and industry our majors have found openings in airlines shipping companies, and other large industries which have foreign outlets — we have graduates, for instance, with a large international banking firm, and with lumber export and import firms."

Students who major in the department of foreign languages may concentrate in French, German or Spanish; in romance languages; in modern languages; or in Latin.

In the first area of concentration they must take a minimum of 24 semester hours beyond the intermediate level in the literature and civilization of their choice. In romance languages the 24 hours are in French or Spanish literature and civilization beyond the intermediate level, and in modern languages the courses must include a romance language and German. Latin majors must have a minimum of 18 hours in their special field.

STUDENTS who plan to enter teaching are advised to round out their course with general academic subjects. Those who want government service are urged to take strong supporting programs in history, government and political science, and those who wish to enter foreign trade fields are advised to take appropriate courses in business administration and economics. A number of these students also enter graduate study at the Latin

American Institute in New York City or the Institute for Foreign Trade in Arizona for more specialized training.

The department currently has majors in all three areas, Dr. Starr said. There are usually some 40 juniors and seniors, with about two per cent of the graduates in the College of Arts and Sciences each year foreign language majors.

The department, which requires both oral and written comprehensive examinations for all seniors, emphasizes the audio-lingual approach to foreign language study.

A STUDENT planning to enter college and major in language should acquire as much audio-lingual skill in the field as possible. At least three or four years of a language at the high school level are desirable, particularly if the student wants to study a second language in college.

It is helpful if the student decides on his major at least by the beginning of the sophomore year, Dr. Starr said, and the department prefers to have all language majors study the History of Western Europe during the freshman year.

Spanish majors are required to take Latin American history, and Latin majors must have ancient history.

As well as undergraduate work the department also offers work leading to the master of arts degree in French, Spanish, romance languages, and German.